

ticular trait, but by considering the relative development of the whole mass of the instinctive, the moral, and the intellectual organs. The subjects are classed in chapters, each chapter containing characters strongly influenced by the predominance or the deficiency of one or more important organs. Each sketch is accompanied with an engraved likeness of the subject, the phrenological deductions being drawn from the likeness, and followed by a short and authentic biographical notice, so that the student is enabled to trace for himself the connexion between the physiognomonic indication and the actual conduct of the individual. The plates are chiefly from the Cabinet d'Estampes of the great Royal Library at Paris, and the historical matter from several biographical works of high standing and celebrity.

The following is the order of the chapters. 1st. Characters in relation to morality—*Caracalla contrasted with Zeno, Richelieu and Walsingham*, &c. 2d. Religious characters—*Priestly, Richard Price*, &c. 3d. Independent characters—*William of Nassau, Prince of Orange, Ramus*, &c. 4th. Ambitious characters—*Philip II. Catharine II.* &c. 5th. Gay characters—*Piron and Carlin*, &c. 6th. Timid and bold characters—*skulls of a timid woman and courageous man—Cicero and the Gladiator*, &c.

This work was to have been completed by the publication of a second volume upon "Practical Phrenology," which has the organs necessary to the display of the arts and sciences for its object—unfortunately this volume never appeared. The student will be obliged to seek elsewhere the knowledge to which this work is intended as an introduction, but long may we wait for the appearance of one capable of communicating it in the happy manner of Spurzheim.

As an introduction, we recommend it highly to every curious inquirer, and especially to medical men, for the intimate relations between the science of phrenology and several branches of the healing art, cannot escape the observation of any enlightened physician.

R. C.

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XVIII. *Lectures on the Diseases of the Urinary Organs.* By B. C. BRODIE, F. R. S. Sergeant-Surgeon to the King, and Surgeon to St. George's Hospital.

C'est un métier que de faire un livre comme de faire une pendule—it is as much a trade to make a book as to make a clock, is a fact of which our transatlantic brethren seem to be fully apprized. Scarcely a week passes that we do not receive "something new," from the craftsmen of the book-making trade in London or Paris! When we come, however, to the examination of these "somethings new," we are often not a little astonished at recognising tricked out in a new suit of best becomes, and bowing again for a small share of our "distinguished consideration," an old friend, or a discarded good-for-nothing, whom we had long ago consigned either to a snug corner in our "dome of thought," or to the dusty top shelf of our sanctum.

The celebrated B. C. Brodie, Sergeant-Surgeon to the King, &c. &c. has, within a few months past, "made a book," out of his already published lectures on the diseases of the urinary organs! In a very short and very modest preface, he apologizes to the experienced surgeons for the want of novelty with which they will find his book replete, observing that it is—

"Composed of lectures addressed to students who required to be informed

on all points, and who would have profited but little by his instructions, if he had confined himself to the exposition of new views, and the detail of original observations."

We do not think the Sergeant-surgeon does himself justice in making this statement, for although the book is as evidently made up, and is as deficient in novelty as any one that was ever compressed within the two covers of a volume; yet he describes with so much accuracy morbid phenomena of the diseases of which he treats, and marks out with so much clearness and simplicity each successive step to be taken in their management, that we must confess we were not a little gratified and instructed by its perusal, and do not hesitate to recommend it not only to the notice of students, but likewise of experienced surgeons.

The work is divided into three sections. Part first is devoted to the consideration of the diseases of the urethra—under this head he includes strictures, some of the more trifling affections to which this canal is subject, and the treatment of retention of urine. He adheres to the old division of strictures into the "spasmodic and permanent," and gives a somewhat diffuse, though plain history of their causes, phenomena, and treatment.

The second part treats of the diseases of the bladder and prostate gland, and embraces nearly all the diseases to which these organs are obnoxious. Some exceedingly useful and practical remarks are to be met with in this chapter, though it contains nothing of sufficient novelty to demand particular notice.

The third part relates to urinary calculi, and comprehends the causes of their formation, their chemical analysis, and their treatment. It is, however, we think, more particularly calculated for the inexperienced surgeon, than for one of long experience in the science. As a specimen of the style of the work, we shall transcribe what is said on the employment of solvent injections, into the bladder, for the purpose of removing calculi. From a series of experiments which he instituted to test the value of this method of destroying the stone, our author is of opinion, that it may in some cases be resorted to with advantage. The mineral acids, according to him, undoubtedly exercise a powerful chemical action on calculi composed of the phosphates, much greater indeed than alkalies do on those which are composed of lithic acid; it is therefore in cases of phosphatic calculi, that we look for most benefit to accrue from the use of acid injections.

"It is now some years," says he, "since I began a series of experiments upon this subject. I injected into the bladder a solution of nitric acid in distilled water, in the proportion of one minim of the former to an ounce of the latter. As no inconvenience followed, I increased the quantity of nitric acid, until two minims, and sometimes two minims and a half, were contained in each ounce of the injection. The result was the same; not only the patients did not suffer, but where chronic inflammation of the bladder was present, they experienced considerable relief of all their symptoms; the desire to make water becoming less frequent, and, in particular, the secretion of the ropy adhesive mucus from the coats of the bladder being very much diminished, I next endeavoured to ascertain to what extent a solution of this strength was capable of acting on a calculus of the mixed phosphates. The change produced was sufficiently obvious, especially when the solution was made to pass over a calculus in a stream for a considerable time. It gradually diminished in size, and at last began to be broken down into minute fragments."

About this time an elderly gentleman consulted him for symptoms of stone in the bladder, complicated with a strictured urethra of many years standing. From the diseased state of the bladder, he did not think himself justified in recommending the usual operation to the patient. The calculus, from the matter discharged, (a viscid mucus, blended with small particles of phosphate of lime resembling mortar,) was manifestly composed of the phosphates, arising out of a diseased state of the bladder. Under these circumstances, and with the advice of Dr. Prout, he determined to try the experiment of injecting nitric acid into the bladder.

"For this purpose I procured the catheter which I now show you. It is made of the purest gold, which can be worked. It has a double channel, which are separated from each other by a longitudinal septum running the whole length of the instrument. Each channel terminates by a distinct tube at the handle, and has a separate eye, or opening, at the other end of the catheter. By means of this instrument, you will observe that a liquid may be injected into the bladder, entering it by one passage, and flowing out of it by the other, so that there may be a current through the bladder, without that organ being inconveniently distended. I had contrived a complicated apparatus for the purpose of making the injection, but I was afterwards led to prefer the simpler contrivance of an elastic gum bottle, having a stop-cock and an elastic gum tube attached to it. At first I washed out the bladder with some distilled water to get rid of the mucus which was lodged in it. Then I injected the solution of nitric acid very slowly, using the same liquid over and over again several times. Always after the operation was performed, the liquid which had been employed as an injection, was tested by the addition of a *highly concentrated* solution of pure ammonia; and it was always found, that, if the ammonia was added in a sufficient, but not too large a quantity, the phosphates were precipitated in abundance. The patient suffered no material inconvenience from this operation. It was continued sometimes for fifteen minutes, sometimes for half an hour, and repeated, according to circumstances, once in two, three, or four days. At last, in making water, the patient voided these two small calculi, composed of the phosphate of lime, with a small proportion of the triple phosphate. It was impossible to doubt that they had been acted on, and partly dissolved by the acid injection, and that they had, at last, come away by the urethra, in consequence of their having been thus reduced in size. For some time after this occurred, the patient was in a state of comparative ease. He had still symptoms of stricture of the urethra and diseased bladder, but he was free from the more urgent symptoms under which he had formerly laboured. By degrees, however, these symptoms began to recur, and I have no doubt, that there was a fresh formation of calculi produced chiefly, as was the case with the former ones, by the diseased state of the bladder. If he had remained in London, I should probably have been able to have given him some further relief, by repeating and continuing the use of the injection. But he went into the country, where, having been for a long time in a very bad state of health, he died, as I was informed, of some disease not immediately connected with that, on account of which I had been consulted."

From the observations which he has made since the occurrence of this case, Mr. B. feels himself justified in coming to the following conclusions:—

"1st. That where the mucous membrane is affected with chronic inflammation, the urine depositing a viscid, alkaline mucus, a most beneficial change may frequently be produced in the condition of the bladder by the injection of a weak solution of nitric acid into it.

"2d. That a calculus, composed externally of the phosphates, may be acted

on by this injection, so as to become gradually reduced in size, while it is still in the bladder of a living person.

"3d. That there is reason to believe that calculi, composed throughout of the mixed phosphates, such as are met with in some cases of diseased prostate gland and bladder, are capable of being entirely dissolved under this mode of treatment."

This problem of the solution of calculi by chemical agents, has occupied the minds of many individuals, not only at the present epoch, but from time immemorial. Practitioners of the present day, however, generally speaking, administer their remedies chiefly with a view to the correction of those particular diatheses or states of the constitution, on which the formation of calculus matter seems especially to depend, believing that the schemes for the dissolution of urinary calculi are undeserving of confidence. Many difficulties, without doubt, present themselves to the adoption of this project. In the first place it is almost impossible to discover the exact composition of a stone, while it is concealed in the bladder. Again, there is great danger of producing violent inflammation of the bladder from the direct application of so powerful an irritant as a mineral acid to its already irritated mucous surface; and lastly, a diseased state of the urethra or prostate gland would likewise prove a serious obstacle. An opinion, however, from such a man as Mr. Brodie, and that founded on experience, is certainly entitled to weight; the truth of what he asserts remains only to be proven by the experiments of others, and we hope that the attention of those best qualified from their situations in public institutions, and from their experience to judge of the utility of the plan, will be at once directed towards it. To conclude, we beg leave to repeat, that taken as a whole, the work is admirably suited to the young surgeon, from the practical remarks with which it abounds, and that it must prove exceedingly interesting from its style to the more experienced, though containing, it is true, not much novelty in matter.

T. D. M.

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XIX. *Elementa Medicinæ Forensis, Politicæ Medicæ, et Hygienæ; ad usum Subalpinorum.* Taurini, 1832. Vol. IV. 8vo.

Although the title page of this work does not bear the author's name, we learn from the dedication, that we are indebted for it to Professor Martini, of Turin, whose zeal and indefatigable industry in the promotion of the medical art, and its collateral branches are too well known to require any eulogy from us.

It may be perceived that this work embraces a wide field, and we must confess that we were at loss to understand in what manner the learned author could compress even the elements of the three distinct though closely allied sciences of which he treats, in the four small volumes before us. His own words will, however, better explain his views on this point than any thing we can say. "Longus usus me docuit, duo in studiosæ juventutis institutione fore pernecessaria: scilicet brevitatem, atque perspicuitatem." This plan has been closely adhered to throughout the work, so much so indeed, that we know of no work with the exception of the aphorisms of the Coan sage, in which the same quantity of information is conveyed in so condensed and yet so clear a form.